

the first step of three legs. The three legs are to get the deficit down by reducing spending; second is for us to get a good tax bill for all Americans; third is to do the appropriations bills in a manner that is consistent with the agreement and which doesn't violate the Budget Act.

I believe this is a historic beginning, and I am very pleased to be part of it. I thank everyone here for their role. I thank all eight committees that assumed their burden and produced their reconciliation package. Mostly, I thank Senator ROTH, the chairman of the Finance Committee, and Senator MOYNIHAN, his Democratic manager, and all those on the Finance Committee who worked to produce a bipartisan bill.

The lesson learned is that we can get things done that are difficult but good for the American people in a bipartisan way if we just work at it. I believe the best example we have of that is the Finance Committee this year. All the other committees had lesser responsibilities, but they provided their savings without rancor and with almost unanimity and, if not, a unanimity of spirit. I believe there is no process that would have let us in the U.S. Senate get this much work done. If this bill were freestanding and the tax bill were freestanding without the protections of the Budget Act, I just ask you to dream about what might happen. First, I think each bill could take 4 or 5 weeks, I think the amendments could run into the hundreds, and the bill could look like something completely different by the time we finished than what we started with. So we take some bad with the good in this difficult process called the reconciliation bill.

I thank the ranking member of the Budget Committee not only for the work here on the floor, but actually as we moved through the last 3½ months, Senator LAUTENBERG has been very good to work with, and we produced a good package, which will show up here in a bipartisan vote tonight. I thank the Senator. We produced a good bill.

Mr. LAUTENBERG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I will be brief. I sense that everybody would like to hear a long speech, but I am going to disappoint them. I just want to say, Mr. President, that I, too, enjoyed my work with the distinguished chairman of the Budget Committee. We managed to resolve all of our problems without too much dispute, without any confrontation. There wasn't a moment that we walked out on anything. This reconciliation bill is consistent with that. We did, as it was appropriately noted, rush through some things. But that does not at all, in my view, suggest that we rushed through and didn't have the appropriate knowledge or review of the items that we were processing.

I thought it was a job very well done. I must say, if we didn't have some time

constraint on this, Heaven knows how long we would all be here. We would see summer come and go and we would still be debating.

Again, I enjoyed the process and my first time at bat with the Budget Committee in the position that I have. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I hope that Senator DOMENICI will, as my ranking member in the not-too-distant future, also enjoy it. I promise to be cooperative.

I want to thank the staff of the Policy Committee, but particularly my senior staff here—Bruce King, Sander Lurie, Nell Mays, Marty Morris, Amy Abraham, John Cahill, Jodi Grant, Matt Greenwald, Phil Karsting, Sue Nelson, Jon Rosenwasser, Jim Klumpner, and Mitch Warren—who did a terrific job, as I know Bill Hoagland and his team did. I won't go through the names, but I will say that I have gotten to know them and respect them and admire the work they have done. I thank everybody for their cooperation, particularly my colleagues on this side.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, Senator GRAMM would like 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I have heard a lot of people speak in my 13 years in the Senate, but I don't think I have ever seen anybody do a better job of taking complicated issues and explaining them in a very short time as Senator DOMENICI has done in the last 2 days. I think we have made history on this bill, and I think the Senator from New Mexico has been a very important part of that.

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask for the yeas and nays on final passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The yeas and nays have been ordered and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Abraham	Chafee	Feingold
Allard	Cleland	Feinstein
Ashcroft	Coats	Ford
Baucus	Cochran	Frist
Bennett	Collins	Glenn
Biden	Conrad	Gorton
Bond	Coverdell	Graham
Breaux	Craig	Gramm
Brownback	D'Amato	Grassley
Bryan	DeWine	Gregg
Burns	Domenici	Hagel
Campbell	Enzi	Hatch

Hutchinson	Mack	Shelby
Hutchison	McCain	Smith (NH)
Inhofe	McConnell	Smith (OR)
Jeffords	Moseley-Braun	Snowe
Kempthorne	Moynihan	Specter
Kerrey	Murkowski	Stevens
Kohl	Nickles	Thomas
Kyl	Robb	Thompson
Landrieu	Roberts	Thurmond
Leahy	Rockefeller	Warner
Lieberman	Roth	Wyden
Lott	Santorum	
Lugar	Sessions	

NAYS—27

Akaka	Faircloth	Lautenberg
Bingaman	Grams	Levin
Boxer	Harkin	Mikulski
Bumpers	Helms	Murray
Byrd	Hollings	Reed
Daschle	Inouye	Reid
Dodd	Johnson	Sarbanes
Dorgan	Kennedy	Torricelli
Durbin	Kerry	Wellstone

The bill (S. 947), as amended, was passed.

(The text of the bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, in my opening statement, I thanked my good friend and colleague, Senator MOYNIHAN, my colleague on the Finance Committee, and our staff for their excellent work. I would be remiss, however, if I failed to conclude without again expressing my appreciation for these diligent professionals—men and women who work into the wee, wee hours, late nights, early mornings, and weekends to help us craft a bill that could find the kind of success that this has found on the Senate floor.

I would like to particularly thank the following majority and minority staff of the Finance Committee who worked so hard on this bill, including Lindy Paull, Frank Polk, Julie James, Dennis Smith, Gioia Bonmartini, Alexander Vachon, Dee Dee Spitznagel, Joan Woodward, Brig Gulya, Mark Patterson, David Podoff, Faye Drummond, Kristen Testa, Doug Steiger, Rick Werner, and Rakesh Singh.

Again, I am grateful for the outstanding work that they did. And I believe that it merits the thanks and gratitude of all of us.

REVENUE RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. ROTH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of S. 949, the Tax Fairness Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 949) to provide revenue reconciliation pursuant to section 104(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.